

## **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

DATE: June 7, 2005

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:04 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:36 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ATTENDING MEMBERS**

Greg Bowes, Chair  
Patrice Abduallah  
Susie Day  
Joanne Sanders

#### **ABSENT**

Rozelle Boyd  
Ginny Cain  
Scott Schneider

## **AGENDA**

PROPOSAL NO. 240, 2005 -approves a transfer of \$40,000 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to transfer funds to bring director's salary into compliance with fiscal ordinance and to increase social worker to full time status

"Do Pass as Amended"

Vote: 4-0

## **Community Affairs Committee**

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, June 7, 2005. Chair Greg Bowes called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abduallah, Susie Day, and Joanne Sanders. Absent were Rozelle Boyd, Ginny Cain, and Scott Schneider.

PROPOSAL NO. 240, 2005 -approves a transfer of \$40,000 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home (County General Fund) to transfer funds to bring director's salary into compliance with fiscal ordinance and to increase social worker to full time status

Rose Butler, Director of the Marion County Children's Guardian Home, distributed a handout with information on the request to transfer funds to bring the director's salary into compliance (Exhibit A). Some of the key points for Ms. Butler's request were as follows:

- It was not possible to hire a permanent director until the salary came into compliance.
- In 1979, it was discovered that a social worker was hired part-time to cover a contractual position which, after being discovered through an IRS complaint, could not be contractual.
- The Social Worker position oversees the human services student intern program, works with special needs cases, and runs the staff training program for the Guardian Home (all child care and support staff are required to have 20 hours annual continuing education).
- Try to reduce the overtime expenses.

Bill Peddie, Assistant Director of the Marion County Children's Home, explained that he worked with the budget in order to move money around to comply with the proposal. The Social Worker position was in Character 03, and some of that money is being used within Utilities. Initially, there was to be \$33,000 taken from Character 03 and put into Character 01. The additional \$7,000 would come from Character 02, where there were a few dollars saved because of Medicaid reimbursements. He also stated that the Medicaid spending has been reduced a great deal, to the point where no money can be budgeted because they never know who is coming through the door from day to day. Sometimes a number of the children do not have Medicaid, and it does not always include medication if needed. He asked if it would be possible to make an amendment and redistribute the monies. The bottom line remains the same. Mr. Peddie stated that he would like to change the initial proposal from \$7,000 from Character 02 and make it \$25,000 and also change Character 03 from \$33,000 to \$15,000 because the Guardian Home is experiencing some increase in the utility expense.

Chair Bowes asked if the category supplies shown in the proposal includes the Medicaid reimbursements Mr. Peddie referred to. Mr. Peddie answered in the affirmative.

Chair Bowes asked if the \$7,000 was thought to be from the Medicaid savings and if the \$25,000 was coming from that same area or if the Guardian Home was trying to find other avenues. Mr. Peddie stated that he had spoken with the Auditor's office to explain why he had to rearrange the numbers, because there was an HVAC contract for several months and he was trying to figure out more about the central processing procedure. Initially \$24,000 to \$24,500 was in the 02 account, which had always been used for supplies for contractual services. When the purchase order was put together and it was suggested that it be done in these two areas, the Guardian Home was told it had to be taken out of Character 03. He said that there was not enough money in the 03 account, but he did have it in 02. He contacted Dan Jones in the Auditor's office, and found it workable, and hopefully this can be stretched out for the remainder of the year.

Chair Bowes asked if the reason it is difficult to stretch the money is from not knowing how many children will be coming to the Guardian Home. Mr. Peddie answered in the affirmative. Chair Bowes asked, in terms of taking the \$40,000 out of Character 02 and 03 and giving it to Character 01, if the goal is to increase the director's salary and bring the social worker to full-time status. He asked if there would be a change in the Guardian Home's budget. Mr. Peddie stated that there is no change in the overall 2005 budget.

Councillor Sanders asked if the Auditor's office has looked at the numbers in both of the Characters and if they are feasible to work with. Mr. Jones answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Sanders moved, seconded by Councillor Day, to amend Proposal No. 240, 2005 as per exhibit B. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Councillor Abdullah asked what part of the \$40,000 was for the salary of the social worker. Mr. Peddie stated that the base of the salary is \$8,580 with \$1,244 for Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF) and FICA for a total of \$9,825.

Chair Bowes asked if the remaining balance would go to the director. Mr. Peddie answered in the negative, stating that the director's portion is as follows: a base salary of \$14,481 with \$2,122 for PERF and FICA for a total of \$16,603. Chair Bowes asked if this is the balance for overtime. Mr. Peddie answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Abdullah asked if the 20 hours of annual continuing education is done in-house. Ms. Butler stated that the majority is done in-house and it is part of the overtime expense. Councillor Abdullah also asked if this training is itemized in the budget. Ms. Butler stated that there is not money set aside in the budget for training, and it comes out of the private account.

Chair Bowes asked if one reason that there is no Capital Fund is because of the private funds the Guardian Home receives for all the recent additions and renovations that are being done. Mr. Peddie answered in the affirmative. Chair Bowes also asked what type of plan there is for any future capital improvements. Ms. Butler stated that the Guardian Home is in current negotiations with the Foundation, which formed Guardian Home 2000, as to how to assist the Guardian Home in the future. She also stated that the Guardian Home receives private donor funds, which are overseen by the County. Some of the funds are undesignated so that they can be used as needed. The challenge is, there are not any funds currently budgeted for the Guardian Home's future needs, which is something that needs to be discussed.

Chair Bowes stated that the Guardian Home facility is nicely laid out and well cared for. He asked if there were any existing problems that need immediate attention. Ms. Butler stated that there is nothing that needs serious immediate care. There are some parts of the building that need to be completed: the boiler room, some windows, and the gymnasiums are in future plans for upgrading. She also stated that the basement is the current challenge they are facing. When the renovations were completed, the basement was not water proofed in the manner it should have been. She also stated that they are getting estimates from contractors on the expenses to repair the basement.

Councillor Sanders moved, seconded by Councillor Abdualлах, to send Proposal No. 240, 2005 to the Council with a "Do Pass As Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Ms. Butler went on to say that the Committee, as well as the Marion County Office of Child Services, has supported the Guardian Home in its efforts to increase budget for staff partly due to the number of children coming through the Nursery. In 2005 there was a significant drop in the Nursery due to some changes that the Department of Child Services had made. They had contracted with a couple of other foster care agencies who had a more expanded base and were able to send more children directly into foster care instead of them coming directly to the Guardian Home.

Ms. Butler also stated that the Guardian Home had lost some staff and started repositioning remaining staff into an opening where the Guardian Home has been doubling up in the Nursery. The Nursery continues to have a floating staff, so that one of those staff persons is always in the Nursery. Ms. Butler also stated that when there are between six to ten children in the Nursery, it is hard to keep up with, so the need for a second float person during critical staffing times is greatly needed.

Ms. Butler stated that the Guardian Home has added a float position to the boys' dormitory during the critical evening staffing times because of some of the challenges it is facing. She also explained that the other position used is the Assistant to the Education Coordinator because of the logistical challenge that goes with meeting the McKinney-

Vento Act. The assistant helps the children with getting on the bus for school, making sure medications go with them, and making sure they are picked up at school if there is a problem. The Education Coordinator deals with more than 200 schools all over the county and makes sure that the Guardian Home is able to keep everything straight.

Ms. Butler stated that she wanted the Committee to be informed because of the funds that were appropriated to cover the Nursery. Two of those positions are not being used in the Nursery but are being used in other critical areas. She also explained that the information discussed at the committee meeting is located in the attachment (Exhibit C).

Chair Bowes thanked Ms. Butler and is looking forward to hearing from her again.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bowes, Chair  
Community Affairs Committee

GB/law.